

COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE OFFICE,  
CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION,  
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL PRESENTS

# Heritage in Your Hinterland

*A free guide to museums and  
heritage centres in County Donegal*



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE  
**Dhún na nGall**  
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



An Chomhairle Dithreacht  
The Heritage Council



*An Action of the County Donegal Heritage Plan*

## GUIDE TO SYMBOLS

-  Admission Charge
-  Wheelchair Access
-  Partial Wheelchair Access
-  Parking Available
-  Refreshments Available
-  Protected Structure  
'Protected Structures' are structures, or parts of structures "which form part of the architectural heritage and which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest." They are protected under the Planning & Development Act 2000
-  Recorded Monument
-  National Monument  
'Recorded Monuments' & 'National Monuments' are significant archaeological sites in private ownership or in state or local authority care. They are protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004).
-  Road Number

### **Cover photographs** (clockwise from top left):

*Interior of traditional cottage at the Fr. McDyer Folk Village Museum in Gleann Cholm Cille / Glencolmcille; Teach Mhicí Mhic Gabhann in Doire Chonaire / Derryconor townland in west Donegal; Inishowen Maritime Museum in the former coastguard station in Greencastle; Donegal County Museum housed in the former George Wilkinson-designed workhouse; Glenveagh Castle located amongst the natural and picturesque beauty of Glenveagh National Park; and a 1922 poster for the Stranorlar railway station (courtesy of the Donegal County Archives).*

### **Back photograph:**

*This traditional byre-and-dwelling from Machaire Gathlán / Magheragallan in west Donegal was removed to, and reconstructed in, the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum in Cultra, County Down where it can be viewed as an exhibit in that open-air museum.*

## HERITAGE IN YOUR HINTERLAND

County Donegal possesses a wealth of built, cultural and natural heritage that can be found throughout the county. There is a tendency to take this rich and varied heritage on our doorstep for granted. As set out in the Heritage Act (1995), our material heritage includes archaeological objects, architectural heritage, fauna, flora, geology, heritage objects, heritage gardens/parks, inland waterways, landscapes, monuments, seascapes, shipwrecks and wildlife habitats. To assist with the identification, interpretation and appreciation of County Donegal's heritage, a network of museums and heritage centres has been developed to highlight the heritage in your hinterland. The museums, heritage centres and contacts outlined in this booklet provide introductory information designed to whet the appetite for our rich and varied built, cultural and natural heritage. Our unique heritage appeals to residents of, and visitors to, County Donegal alike so why not take some time to explore it? County Donegal also provides an excellent venue for educational field courses and fieldtrips at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. In addition to the museums and heritage centres listed in this booklet, remember that County Donegal has many more heritage sites in public and private ownership to appreciate and inspire.

*Joseph Gallagher  
Heritage Officer*

Every attempt has been made to ensure that the information contained in this booklet is accurate at time of going to press. A contact telephone number has been provided for each museum and heritage centre so you are advised to confirm details in advance if you are planning a day out.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The County Donegal Heritage Office, Cultural Services Division wishes to thank members of the Donegal Heritage Network, the County Donegal Heritage Forum, Daragh McDonough and John Kerrigan, Heritage Research Assistant for their assistance in compiling the information for this booklet. The publication of the booklet contributes to the achievement of the County Donegal Heritage Plan (Actions 2.6. & 4.12.).

## 1. AN MHUC DHUBH HISTORIC RAILWAY BAILE NA FINNE / FINTOWN

R250

Take a journey on County Donegal's only operational narrow gauge railway through the spectacular highland scenery along the shore of Lough Finn at the foot of Aghla Mountain. Rolling stock includes custom-built passenger carriage and Railcar 18 (on loan from North West of Ireland Railway Society), one of only six original County Donegal Railway's railcars still in existence.



**Opening Times:** June – September:  
Monday – Saturday: 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

& Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Telephone:** (074) 954 6280

**E-mail:** info@antraen.com

**Website:** www.antraen.com

**Latitude:** N 54.8676°

**Longitude:** W 8.11919°



## 2. AN tSEAN BHEAIRIC MAIN STREET, AN FÁL CARRACH / FALCARRAGH

N56

This two-storey building was constructed in 1890 as the Falcarragh Police Barracks and used as such until it became the Falcarragh Garda Station in 1920. It contains a permanent exhibition and audio-visual display on history and heritage of Cloich Cheann Fhaola, and a craft centre.



**Opening Times:**

Monday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.;

Saturday & Public Holidays:

11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Telephone:** (074) 918 0888 or 918 0655

**E-mail:** antseanbheairic10@yahoo.ie

**Website:** www.falcarraghvisitorcentre.com

**Latitude:** N 55.137°

**Longitude:** W 8.10079°



### 3. **ARDARA HERITAGE CENTRE** **THE DIAMOND, ARDARA**

**N56**

The Ardara Heritage Centre is based in the quoined, cut-stone former Market House with segmental arch, front gable and clock (c. 1840). Although the heritage centre has undergone adjustment in recent years, it still profiles the development of the tweed industry and weaving in the area and hosts occasional heritage/photographic exhibitions including the Bart Whelan Photographic Exhibition (in July & August) that profiles the history of the parish from c. 1890.



**Opening Times:** March - October:  
Monday - Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. &  
Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
**Telephone:** (074) 953 7054  
**E-mail:** glenardfish@eircom.net  
**Website:** www.ardara.ie  
**Latitude:** N 54.7619°  
**Longitude:** W 8.41198°



### 4. **BIDDY & JOE'S COTTAGE** **AN CLOCHÁN / CLOGHAN**

**R252**

Situated along the roadside, this replica one-roomed cottage exhibits many items, fixtures and furnishings from rural life in the county. Many of these items are linked to the folk life and appear in folklore accounts in the Finn Valley.



**Opening Times:** Most days  
**Telephone:** (086) 366 4723  
**E-mail:** biddyandjoe@finnvalley.ie  
**Website:** www.finnvalley.ie  
**Latitude:** N 54.855°  
**Longitude:** W 7.95459°



## 5. CAVANACOR HOUSE BALLINDRAIT

**L2444**

This private seventeenth-century house is the ancestral home of James Knox Polk, the 11th President of the United States from 1845 to 1849. King James II dined under a sycamore tree in the front lawn of the house on April 20, 1689 during the Siege of Derry. As a result of the hospitality shown to the king, Cavanacor House was spared when all the other houses in the area were burned by the withdrawing Jacobite troops. This makes Cavanacor the oldest inhabited Plantation house in the area. A contemporary art gallery on the site is open to the public.



**Opening Times:** Gallery:

Tuesday – Saturday: 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

House: By appointment only.

**Telephone:** (074) 914 1143

**E-mail:** [art@cavanacorgallery.ie](mailto:art@cavanacorgallery.ie)

**Website:** [www.cavanacorgallery.ie](http://www.cavanacorgallery.ie)

**Latitude:** N 54.8489°

**Longitude:** W 7.51136°



House  
Only

## 6. COLMCILLE HERITAGE CENTRE GARTAN

**L1472**

An interpretive exhibition on Saint Colmcille (Columba) featuring artistically-designed banners, stained glass, illustrated panels, artifacts, authentic clothing and a step-by-step illustration of ancient manuscript fabrication. Nature walks available.



**Opening Times:**

Monday – Saturday: 10.30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m;

Sunday: 1.30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m

**Telephone:** (074) 913 7306

**E-mail:** [martinjegan@eircom.net](mailto:martinjegan@eircom.net)

**Website:** [www.colmcilleheritagecentre.ie](http://www.colmcilleheritagecentre.ie)

**Latitude:** N 54.9935°

**Longitude:** W 7.90284°



## 7. COUNTY DONEGAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

### FRANCISCAN FRIARY, ROSSNOWLAGH

**R231**

Housed in a room in the Franciscan Friary, this eclectic collection includes artifacts from the Stone Age, Bronze Age, Penal Times, militaria, traditional music, 1798, 1916 and the War of Independence. Stonework from Abbey Assaroe and a Spanish Armada anchor are also displayed. The collection owes much to the pioneering spirit of Lucius Emerson, curator of the museum for 50 years.



#### Opening Times:

Wednesday – Monday: 11:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
& Tuesday: 2:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Telephone: (087) 235 1044

E-mail: [anthonyrbegley@hotmail.com](mailto:anthonyrbegley@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.donegalhistory.com](http://www.donegalhistory.com)

Latitude: N 54.5467°

Longitude: W 8.20548°



## 8. DOAGH FAMINE VILLAGE

### DOAGH ISLE, INISHOWEN

**L10911**

This open-air museum contains examples of thatched buildings and traditional lifestyles. Attractions include recreations of an Irish wake, Orange Hall, Presbyterian Meeting House, mass rock, hedge school, eviction scene and Republican Safe House.



#### Opening Times:

March – October: 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Telephone: (074) 937 8078

E-mail: [info@doaghfaminevillage.com](mailto:info@doaghfaminevillage.com)

Website: [www.doaghfaminevillage.com](http://www.doaghfaminevillage.com)

Latitude: N 55.309°

Longitude: W 7.33472°



## 9. DOLMEN CENTRE KILCLOONEY

**R261**

The centre provides interpretation on the local dolmen which is a 'Recorded Monument' protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004). Some information is available on local geology. The centre has a reed-bed filtration system, geothermal heating, 20-kilowatt wind turbine and solar panels.



### Opening Times:

Monday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Telephone: (074) 954 5010

E-mail: [dolmencentre@eircom.net](mailto:dolmencentre@eircom.net)

Website: [www.dolmencentre.com](http://www.dolmencentre.com)

Latitude: N 54.8226°

Longitude: W 8.43625°



## 10. DONEGAL CASTLE CASTLE STREET, DONEGAL TOWN

**L1925**

Built by the O'Donnell chieftain in the fifteenth century, Donegal Castle was home to Hugh Roe (Red Hugh) O'Donnell (1572-1602) until his departure for Spain in 1601 when he reduced it to ashes so that it would not fall into the hands of the English forces. Donegal Castle has extensive seventeenth-century additions by Sir Basil Brooke. The castle is furnished throughout and includes Persian rugs and French tapestries. Information panels chronicle the history of the castle owners from the O'Donnell chieftains to the Brooke family.



### Opening Times: Easter – September:

Daily: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.;

September – April:

Thursday – Monday: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

(Last admission 45 minutes before closing time).

Telephone: (074) 972 2405

E-mail: [donegalcastle@opw.ie](mailto:donegalcastle@opw.ie)

Website: [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

Latitude: N 54.6547°

Longitude: W 8.10976°



## 11. DONEGAL COUNTY ARCHIVES THREE RIVERS CENTRE, LIFFORD

L7214

The Donegal County Archives seeks to preserve the inheritance of the people of Donegal for present and future generations by preserving, acquiring and making accessible the documented heritage of County Donegal. Archives that can be consulted include Poor Law Union/Workhouse records (1840-1923), Urban & Rural District Councils (1899-), Grand Jury presentments (1753-1900), Donegal County Council records (1899-present), school records (1880s-1990s) and private collections.



### Opening Times:

Monday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

(by appointment only)

Telephone: (074) 917 2490

E-mail: [archivist@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:archivist@donegalcoco.ie)

Website: [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)

Latitude: N 54.834<sup>0</sup>

Longitude: W 7.47664<sup>0</sup>



## 12. DONEGAL COUNTY MUSEUM HIGH ROAD, LETTERKENNY



This Designated Museum is housed in part of the former Letterkenny Workhouse opened in 1845 and designed by George Wilkinson. The exhibition in the first-floor gallery tells the story of County Donegal from the Stone Age to the twentieth century. The ground-floor gallery caters for temporary exhibitions, lectures, seminars and workshops. The museum is also the home of the Archaeological Survey of County Donegal.



### Opening Times:

Monday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

(Closed for lunch: 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.),

Saturday: 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Telephone: (074) 912 4613

E-mail: [museum@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:museum@donegalcoco.ie)

Website: [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)

Latitude: N 54.9547<sup>0</sup>

Longitude: W 7.73417<sup>0</sup>



### 13. **DONEGAL RAILWAY HERITAGE CENTRE** **TYRCONNELL STREET, DONEGAL TOWN**

**L1925**

Housed in the former railway station house, attractions include audio-visual displays, railway artifacts and memorabilia, photographic archive, model railway, picnic area and railway merchandise shop. Outside the station, there is a restored coach 28, railcar trailer 5, Ruston Diesel locomotives and Newtowncunningham Signal Box.



**Opening Times:** March – December:  
Monday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.;  
Saturday & Sunday (July - August):  
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Telephone:** (074) 972 2655

**E-mail:** [donegalrailway@gmail.com](mailto:donegalrailway@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.countydonegalrailway.com](http://www.countydonegalrailway.com)

**Latitude:** N 54.657°

**Longitude:** W 8.10695°



### 14. **DUNFANAGHY WORKHOUSE** **FIGART, DUNFANAGHY**

**N56**

The original workhouse on this site was opened on June 24, 1845 for the poor and destitute living in the Dunfanaghy area. The workhouse communicates the true story of the nineteenth-century life of 'Wee Hannah', displays a famine exhibition and highlights maritime heritage and culture. It also contains a bookshop, art gallery, craft centre and children's playground.



**Opening Times:** June – September:

Daily: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. &

October - Easter: Monday – Saturday:  
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Easter Week & October Bank Holiday  
Week: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Telephone:** (074) 913 6540

**E-mail:** [info@dunfanaghyworkhouse.ie](mailto:info@dunfanaghyworkhouse.ie)

**Website:** [www.dunfanaghyworkhouse.ie](http://www.dunfanaghyworkhouse.ie)

**Latitude:** N 55.1798°

**Longitude:** W 7.9761°



## 15. 'FLIGHT OF THE EARLS' HERITAGE CENTRE RATHMULLAN

LI102

This Battery was one of a series of Napoleonic defences on Lough Swilly built by British forces in 1810. The exhibition commemorates the 'Flight of the Earls', the departure of the last of the great Irish chieftains, Hugh O'Neill (Earl of Tyrone) & Rory O'Donnell (Earl of Tyrconnell), on September 14, 1607. The display also addresses the life and times of the Earls and the aftermath of their flight.



**Opening Times:** June – Mid-September:  
Monday – Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
(Closed for lunch: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)  
& Sunday: 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Telephone:** (074) 915 8178 or 915 8131

**E-mail:** rathmullan@eircom.net

**Latitude:** N 55.0945°

**Longitude:** W 7.53229°



## 16. FORT DUNREE MILITARY MUSEUM LINSFORT, BUNCRANA



LI621

Near where Wolfe Tone was brought ashore in 1798, a small fort was built to guard against the possible return of a French invasion fleet. In the late nineteenth century, the fort was modernised and enlarged with the building of the 'Top Fort' on Dunree Hill. Fort Dunree houses a fascinating display of military memorabilia and artifacts, and an array of large guns from the twentieth century. The Saldanha Suite contains a wildlife exhibition and the 'Rockhill Collection' of Military Memorabilia.



**Opening Times:** June – September:  
Monday – Saturday: 10:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
& Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.;

October – May:

Monday – Friday: 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. &  
Saturday & Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Telephone:** (074) 936 1817

**E-mail:** dunree@eircom.net

**Website:** www.dunree.pro.ie

**Latitude:** N 55.1964°

**Longitude:** W 7.55302°



## 17. FR. McDYER'S FOLK VILLAGE MUSEUM GLEANN CHOLM CILLE / GLENCOLMCILLE

R263

The folk museum was established in 1967. Fr. James McDyer, who moved to Gleann Cholm Cille in 1951, was one of the driving forces behind its establishment in order to promote local cottage industries and to provide better facilities in the parish. An Cláchán is built in the form of a village with reconstructed dwellings from the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries as well as the nineteenth-century Dooley School House. Each building contains artifacts and exhibits relevant to the appropriate time period. The Folk Village has recently opened two new exhibition houses: a traditional pub/grocers/shoemakers and a fisherman's cottage which is dedicated to the history of fishing in Gleann Cholm Cille.



**Opening Times:** Easter – September:  
Monday – Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.,  
Sunday: 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Telephone:** (074) 973 0017

**E-mail:** folkvillage@eircom.net

**Website:** www.glenfolkvillage.com

**Latitude:** N 54.7072°

**Longitude:** W 8.73998°



## 18. GLEBE HOUSE CHURCH HILL



LI462

Regency house (1828) set in woodland gardens, decorated with William Morris textiles and housing a collection of 300 works by leading twentieth-century artists. The house is the former residence of landscape painter Derek Hill (1916-2000) and is now in the care of the Office of Public Works. Exhibitions are shown in the adjoining gallery. The grounds/gardens are open all day all year round.



**Opening Times:** June & September:

Saturday – Thursday: 11:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.;

July – August: Daily: 11:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

**Telephone:** (074) 913 7071

**E-mail:** glebegallery@opw.ie

**Website:** www.heritageireland.ie

**Latitude:** N 55.0052°

**Longitude:** W 7.9015°



House  
Only

## 19. GLENVEAGH NATIONAL PARK

**R251**

The Glenveagh estate was created in 1857-59 by the purchase of several smaller holdings by John George Adair (1823-1885). Glenveagh Castle, a castellated mansion, was built of rough-hewn granite from 1870 to 1873 and overlooks Lough Veagh. The 16,000 hectares of mountain, bogs, lakes and woods contained in Glenveagh National Park boasts a rich variety of wildlife including red deer and Golden Eagle, and a network of walking routes. Local flora is in abundance as well as more exotic species in the Castle gardens. Entrance to the park, visitor centre & castle gardens is free of charge.



**Opening Times:** Mid-March – September:

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.;

October – Mid-March: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Telephone:** (074) 913 7090

**E-mail:** [glenveaghbookings@environ.ie](mailto:glenveaghbookings@environ.ie)

**Website:** [www.glenveaghnationalpark.ie](http://www.glenveaghnationalpark.ie)

**Latitude:** N 55.0572° **Longitude:** W 7.93693°



Castle & Bus  
Only



## 20. INISHOWEN MARITIME MUSEUM GREENCASTLE

**R241**

The museum is located in the old coastguard station overlooking Lough Foyle. Exhibits include a fully-rigged Drontheim (or 'Greencastle Yawl'), the traditional fishing boat of the northern Irish coast; other traditional boats; a nineteenth-century rocket cart used to aid survivors of wrecked ships; 'Mariners from the Past' exhibition; World War II 'Battle of the Atlantic' exhibition; ships models; photographs and memorabilia. The museum also houses exhibits on The Foyle Pilots, Master Mariners, Shipwrecks, Irish Lights & Emigration, and a state-of-the-art planetarium.



**Opening Times:** Easter – September:

Monday – Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. &

Sunday: 12:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. &

October – Easter:

Monday – Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Telephone:** (074) 938 1363

**E-mail:** [greencastlemaritime@eircom.net](mailto:greencastlemaritime@eircom.net)

**Website:** [www.inishowenmaritime.com](http://www.inishowenmaritime.com)

**Latitude:** N 55.2031° **Longitude:** W 6.98 498°



## 21. IONAD COIS LOCHA DÚN LÚICHE / DUNLEWEY

LI623

Situated on the shores of Dunlewey Lough, Ionad Cois Locha is based on the historic homestead of Manus Ferry, a renowned weaver. Attractions include a weaving demonstration, audio-visual display, adventure play area, farm animals and lakeside walks. Storytelling boats trips on Dunlewey Lough provide views of Errigal and the granite of the Poison Glen, and pass near the site of a prehistoric Crannóg. Regular music events.



**Opening Times:** April - October:

Daily: 10:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Telephone:** (074) 953 1699

**E-mail:** [dunleweycentre@eircom.net](mailto:dunleweycentre@eircom.net)

**Website:** [www.dunleweycentre.com](http://www.dunleweycentre.com)

**Latitude:** N 55.0252°

**Longitude:** W 8.14687°



## 22. IOSAS [ISLAND OF SAINTS & SCHOLARS] CENTRE DERRYVANE, MUFF

LI941

The Celtic Garden covers a six-acre site and is shaped like a map of Ireland. There is a European section representing where Irish saints evangelized in the fifth to twelfth centuries. In the garden, there is the replica stone cell of St. Columba and a straw-bale, thatched oratory to honour St. Canice.



**Opening Times:** Monday – Thursday:

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,

Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. & Saturday –

Sunday: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Telephone:** (074) 938 4866

**E-mail:** [goldenagecentre@hotmail.com](mailto:goldenagecentre@hotmail.com)

**Website:** [www.columbacommunity.com](http://www.columbacommunity.com)

**Latitude:** N 55.0543°

**Longitude:** W 7.32948°



## 23. ISAAC BUTT HERITAGE CENTRE AN CLOCHÁN / CLOGHAN

R252

This heritage centre is housed in the former Brockagh National School (1921) and contains an exhibition of the life and times of Isaac Butt (1813-1879), founder of the Home Rule movement. There are also exhibitions that address the history and heritage of Glenfin.



### Opening Times:

Monday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Telephone: (074) 913 3108

E-mail: isaacbuttcentre@gmail.com

Website: www.finnvalley.ie

Latitude: N 54.8376°

Longitude: W 7.93218°



## 24. LOUGH DERG



R233

Station Island (Saint Patrick's Purgatory) in Lough Derg has been a place of pilgrimage for at least a thousand years. The Island is open to pilgrims and visitors from May-October. A wide range of pilgrimages and retreats are on offer. Interpretation is also provided in the Visitor Centre and Pilgrim Shelter on the mainland. The Lough Derg Pilgrim Path (which follows the ancient path to Saint's Island and highlights the cultural and natural heritage of the area) has been identified on the mainland. Boat trips and Island tours available on request.



### Opening Times: Daily: May – September:

9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. (or by appointment)

Telephone: (071) 986 1518

E-mail: info@loughderg.org

Website: www.loughderg.org

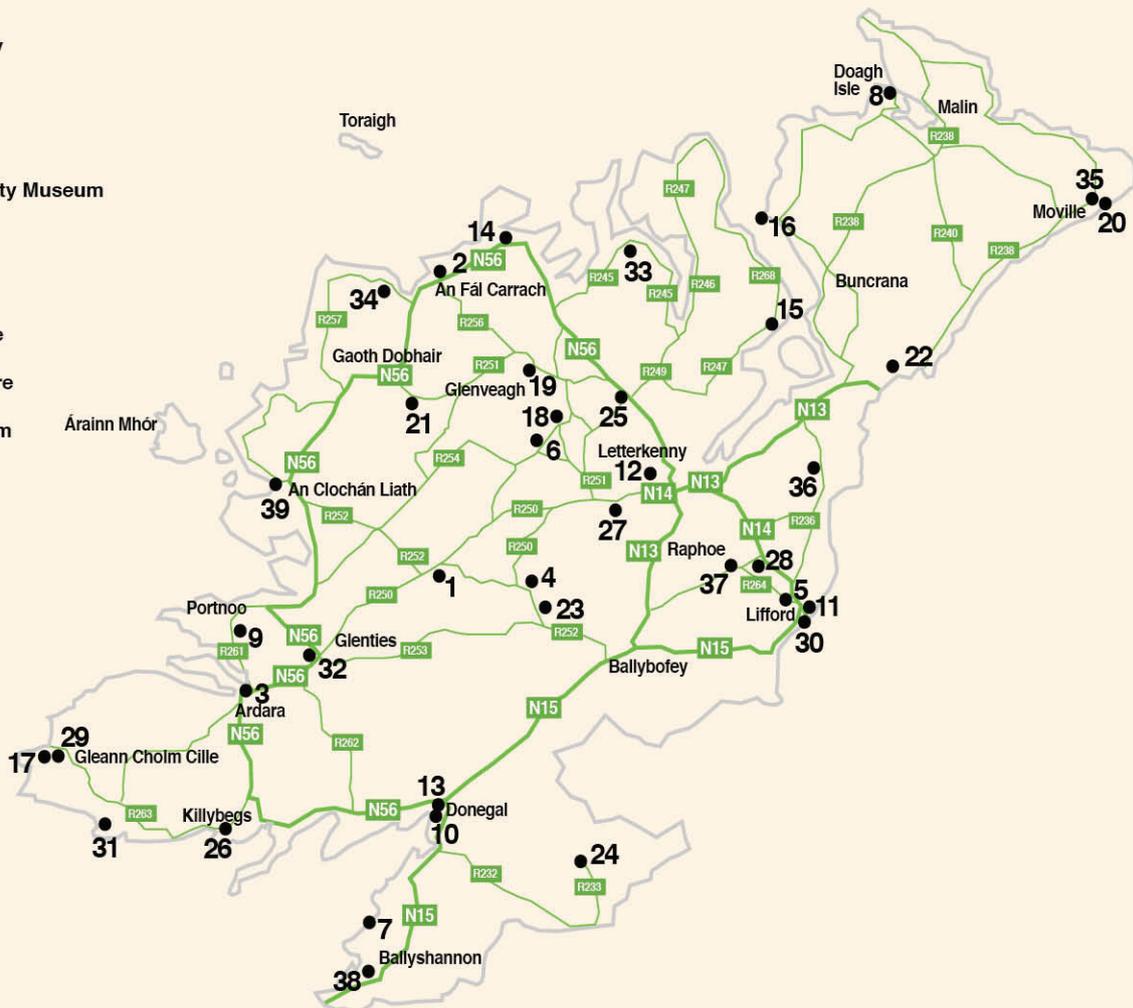
Latitude: N 54.6066°

Longitude: W 7.85943°



Island  
Only

1. An Mhuc Dhubh Historic Railway
2. An tSean Bheairic
3. Ardara Heritage Centre
4. Biddy & Joe's Cottage
5. Cavanacor House
6. Colmcille Heritage Centre
7. County Donegal Historical Society Museum
8. Doagh Famine Village
9. Dolmen Centre
10. Donegal Castle
11. Donegal County Archives
12. Donegal County Museum
13. Donegal Railway Heritage Centre
14. Dunfanaghy Workhouse
15. Flight of the Earls Heritage Centre
16. Fort Dunree Military Museum
17. Fr. McDyer's Folk Village Museum
18. Glebe House
19. Glenveagh National Park
20. Inishowen Maritime Museum
21. Ionad Cois Locha
22. IOSAS Centre
23. Isaac Butt Heritage Centre
24. Lough Derg
25. Lurgyvale Thatched Cottages
26. Maritime & Heritage Centre
27. Newmills Corn & Flax Mills
28. Oakfield Park
29. Oideas Gael
30. Old Courthouse
31. Sliabh Liag Cultural Centre
32. St Connell's Museum
33. Teach John Mhici Bán
34. Teach Mhici Mhic Gabhann
35. The Cairn Centre
36. Ulster Scots Heritage Centre
37. Volt House
38. Waterwheels
39. Daniel O'Donnell Visitor Centre



## 25. LURGYVALE THATCHED COTTAGES KILMACRENNAN

N56

Lurgyvale thatched cottage is a 150-year-old thatched cottage with an open hearth and flagged floor. The buildings and their artifacts convey a sense of traditional life and lifestyles in County Donegal. Small exhibition of farm implements. Visitors can take a walk behind the cottage with paths leading down to the wooded banks of the Lurgy River. Demonstrations of traditional crafts, such as spinning, flailing, churning and straw rope making are held in summertime.



### Opening Times:

Monday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. &

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Telephone: (086) 326 0256

### E-mail:

thatchedcottageskilmacrenna@gmail.com

Latitude: N 55.0314°

Longitude: W 7.78106°



## 26. MARITIME & HERITAGE CENTRE OLD CARPET FACTORY, KILLYBEGS

R263

Situated in the 'Donegal Carpets' factory building, the maritime and heritage centre offers a fascinating insight into the history of fishing in south Donegal and the famous hand-knotted carpets (found in Áras an Uachtaráin, Buckingham Palace and The White House). The centre is home to the longest hand-knotting loom in the world. Enjoy a hands-on, audio-visual experience in a fishing trawler's wheelhouse and live demonstrations of hand-knotting carpets.



### Opening Times: Monday – Friday:

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. &

July - August: Saturday: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Telephone: (074) 974 1944

E-mail: info@visitkillybegs.com

Website: www.visitkillybegs.com

Latitude: N 54.6356°

Longitude: W 8.44616°



## 27. NEWMILLS CORN & FLAX MILLS MILLTOWN, NEWMILLS



R250/LI044

This 'National Monument' in the care of the Office of Public Works contains a complex of restored industrial buildings powered by the River Swilly. A mill has existed here since the seventeenth century and a flax (scutch) mill and a corn mill have been in operation on this site since the early 1800s. On display is one of the largest waterwheels in Ireland in action as it drives the machinery of the corn mill. Audio-visual exhibition addresses the history of mills and millers in County Donegal.



**Opening Times:** June – August:  
Daily: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.;  
September: Wednesday – Sunday:  
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
**Telephone:** (074) 912 5115  
**E-mail:** newmills@opw.ie  
**Website:** www.heritageireland.ie  
**Latitude:** N 54.929°  
**Longitude:** W 7.80735°



## 28. OAKFIELD PARK OAKFIELD DEMESNE, RAPHOE



L2374

Oakfield Park is an eighteenth-century Georgian deanery whose gardens and buildings have been sympathetically restored. Oakfield House (built 1739) is the private residence of Sir Gerry & Lady Heather Robinson and is not open to the public. The gardens contain a formal walled garden, a kitchen garden, several listed heritage trees (including 'The Twelve Apostles'), abundant wildlife, picnic benches and train rides on a 4-kilometre, narrow-gauge railway track (on Saturdays and Sundays only).



**Opening Times:** May – August:  
Wednesday – Sunday: 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
& selected bank holidays  
**Telephone:** (074) 917 3068  
**E-mail:** gardens@oakfieldpark.com  
**Website:** www.oakfieldpark.com  
**Latitude:** N 54.8773° **Longitude:** W 7.574°



## 29. OIDEAS GAEL GLEANN CHOLM CILLE / GLENCOLMCILLE

R263

Oideas Gael provides a unique blend of highly-acclaimed Irish language courses with vibrant cultural and heritage programmes. Its language courses are specially designed to cater for the needs of adults at all learning stages. Activities such as hill-walking, archaeology, environment, culture, music, song and dance are integrated into learning programmes. Oideas Gael also houses an extensive Irish language bookshop.



### Opening Times:

During course programmes &  
by appointment

Telephone: (074) 973 0248

E-mail: [oideasgael@eircom.net](mailto:oideasgael@eircom.net)

Website: [www.oideas-gael.com](http://www.oideas-gael.com)

Latitude: N 54.7076°

Longitude: W 8.73398°



## 30. OLD COURTHOUSE THE DIAMOND, LIFFORD



L7214

Built in 1746, this eighteenth-century courthouse and gaol was designed by architect Michael Priestley. Exhibition panels and displays relate the stories of Napper Tandy, John 'Half Hanged' McNaughten, the O'Donnells, and the murder of Lord Leitrim. Visits to the original dungeons can be arranged on request.



### Opening Times:

Monday: 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.;

Tuesday – Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.;

Closed Weekends & Public Holidays.

Telephone: (074) 914 1733

E-mail: [info@liffordoldcourthouse.com](mailto:info@liffordoldcourthouse.com)

Website: [www.liffordoldcourthouse.com](http://www.liffordoldcourthouse.com)

Latitude: N 54.8332°

Longitude: W 7.47802°



### 31. SLIABH LIAG CULTURAL CENTRE TEILEANN / TEELIN

LI045

Sliabh Liag is one of Europe's highest sea cliffs at 589 metres. The cultural centre is ideally situated on the road to the Bunglas viewing point. This cultural centre provides a base for heritage and archaeological education courses/tours/walks, hillwalking and archaeological workshops. Its also has an Artisan Café.



#### Opening Times:

February – November:

Daily: 10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Telephone: (074) 973 9077

E-mail: [slieveleague@sliabhleague.com](mailto:slieveleague@sliabhleague.com)

Website: [www.sliabhleague.com](http://www.sliabhleague.com)

Latitude: N 54.634°

Longitude: W 8.64652°



### 32. ST. CONNELL'S MUSEUM GLENTIES

N56

Named after St. Connell Caol who founded a monastic settlement on Inis Caoil/ Inishkeel Island in the sixth century, this museum houses a good collection of local history artifacts. The museum also has an extensive display on the County Donegal Railways Joint Committee and mementos from the filming of 'Dancing at Lughnasa'. The reading room has a good collection of local history records.



#### Opening Times: April – October:

Monday – Saturday: 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. &  
2.00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Telephone: (074) 955 1766

E-mail:

[stconnellsmuseumglenties@gmail.com](mailto:stconnellsmuseumglenties@gmail.com)

Website: [www.glenties.ie](http://www.glenties.ie)

Latitude: N 54.7953°

Longitude: W 8.28108°



### 33. TEACH JOHN MHCÍ BÁN CARRIGART

R245

This private collection of farming equipment and implements is displayed in the farmyard of this traditional two-story house. The layout of the house and its contents convey a sense of life on this farm in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.



**Opening Times:** Vary, please telephone to confirm times.

**Telephone:** (087) 251 5387

**Latitude:** N 55.1759°

**Longitude:** W 7.78466°



### 34. TEACH MHCÍ MHC GABHANN MACHAIRE RABHARTAIGH / MAGHERAROARTY

R257

Teach Mhicí Mhic Gabhann in the townland of Doire Chonaire is the homestead of Mici Mac Gabhann (1865-1948). D'fhág Mici Mac Gabhann an baile le cúpla punta a shaothrú. He was a local man who spent time as a seasonal labourer in 'The Laggan' and Scotland before going to the United States. His life story was recorded by Seán Ó hEocaidh (1913-2002) of the Irish Folklore Commission as 'Rotha Mór an tSaoil'/'The Hard Road to Klondike'. The dwelling is a fine example of the vernacular architecture of west Donegal with its thatched roof, slate room addition and cailleach (bed outshot).



**Opening Times:** By appointment only

**Telephone:** (074) 913 5556

**E-mail:** ionadmr@ireland.com

**Latitude:** N 55.1317°

**Longitude:** W 8.1614°



## 35. THE CAIRN CENTRE DRUMAWEIR, GREENCASTLE

L1471

This visitors' centre presents an 'Ireland Through the Ages' history tour and has a local history display area (including photographs and artifacts), arts and outdoor activities. See how the countryside has changed over the centuries.



**Opening Times:** June – October:  
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. or by appointment

**Telephone:** (074) 938 1104

**E-mail:** cairnthe@eircom.net

**Website:** www.thecairncentre.com

**Latitude:** N 55.204°

**Longitude:** W 6.99621°



## 36. ULSTER SCOTS – SCOTS IRISH HERITAGE & EDUCATION CENTRE MONREAGH, CARRIGANS

L2141

This restored nineteenth-century manse is situated in the fertile lands of the Laggan in east Donegal. The centre contains a wealth of information on Ulster Scots / Scots Irish traditions and events. It addresses themes such as the history of the Laggan, eighteenth-century emigrants, the weaver poets, Ulster Scots diaspora and the Ulster Scots in the United States.



**Opening Times:** Monday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. & Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Telephone:** (074) 914 0708

**E-mail:** monreaghulsterscotscentre@town.ie

**Website:**

<http://monreaghulsterscotscentre.town.ie>

**Latitude:** N 54.9558°

**Longitude:** W 7.45532°



### 37. VOLT HOUSE THE DIAMOND, RAPHOE

**R236**

The Volt House was built in 1732 for widows of deceased clergymen. The Ordnance Survey Memoirs (1835-1836) report that local folklore suggests the 'Vault' House received its name from the burial of friars in the vaults where it stands. One room in the Volt House is used to display local heritage artifacts and archives relating to farming and traditional ways-of-life.



#### Opening Times:

By appointment only

Telephone: (074) 917 3966

E-mail: volthouse@eircom.net

Latitude: N 54.8735°

Longitude: W 7.59968°



### 38. WATERWHEELS ABBAY ASSAROE, BALLYSHANNON

**L2415**

Abbey Assaroe was founded by Cistercian monks in the late twelfth century. In 1989, the Abbey Mills Restoration Trust acquired and restored the mills and wheels. Walks to nearby mass rock and (Saint Patrick's) holy well are available.



#### Opening Times: Easter – October:

Sunday: 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Telephone: (071) 985 1580

Latitude: N 54.5082°

Longitude: W 8.2017°





## HISTORIC TOWNS

The Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht has identified a number of Historic Towns for general protection. These are towns that were first identified in the 'Urban Archaeological Survey of County Donegal' (1989) and which have been included in the Record of Monuments and Places. Historic Towns in County Donegal include Ballyshannon, Donegal Town, Killybegs, Lifford, Ramelton, Rathmullan & St. Johnston. The areas within the historic boundaries of these towns are known as Zones of Archaeological Potential and are areas where intense archaeology is present. Donegal County Council is committed to preserving the heritage of Historic Towns in accordance with the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004).

## HERITAGE TOWNS

The 'Heritage Town' concept is based on the principle that a number of towns with a strong physical character would be developed as being representative of the heritage of Ireland. This development would have the dual effect of helping to conserve the built environment of these towns and of providing a marketing tool for the tourism industry in these towns and the country at large. In 2000, Donegal County Council designated Ardara, Ballyshannon, Moville, Ramelton & Raphoe as 'Heritage Towns' under the Donegal County Development Plan.



## SELECTED HERITAGE WEBSITES

An Taisce

[www.antaisce.ie](http://www.antaisce.ie)

Coillte Outdoors

[www.coillteoutdoors.ie](http://www.coillteoutdoors.ie)

County Donegal Historical Society

[www.donegalhistory.com](http://www.donegalhistory.com)

Donegal Ancestry

[www.donegal.rootsireland.ie](http://www.donegal.rootsireland.ie)

Donegal County Council

[www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)

Donegal Garden Trail

[www.donegalgardentrail.com](http://www.donegalgardentrail.com)

Donegal Moths

[www.skylark.ie/donegalmoths](http://www.skylark.ie/donegalmoths)

Donegal Wildlife

<http://donegal-wildlife.blogspot.com>

HEART [Heritage, Environment,  
Art & Rural Tourism] Sculpture Trail

[www.donegalpublicart.ie/docs/  
heart-brochure.pdf](http://www.donegalpublicart.ie/docs/heart-brochure.pdf)

Heritage Week

[www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie)

National Biodiversity Data Centre

[www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie)

National Inventory of  
Architectural Heritage,  
Department of Arts,  
Heritage & the Gaeltacht  
[www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie)

National Monuments Service,  
Department of Arts,  
Heritage & the Gaeltacht  
[www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)

National Parks & Wildlife Service,  
Department of Arts,  
Heritage & the Gaeltacht  
[www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)

The Heritage Council  
[www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie)

Tree Council of Ireland  
[www.treecouncil.ie](http://www.treecouncil.ie)

**County Donegal Heritage Office,  
Cultural Services, Donegal County Council  
[www.donegalcoco.ie/heritage](http://www.donegalcoco.ie/heritage)**

## LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES

[www.donegallibrary.ie](http://www.donegallibrary.ie)

Central Library,  
Oliver Plunkett Road, Letterkenny  
(074) 912 4950

Ballybofey Branch Library,  
Navenney Street, Ballybofey  
(074) 917 5384

Ballyshannon Branch Library,  
Abbey View Office Block,  
Upper Main Street, Ballyshannon  
(071) 985 8824

Buncrana Community Library,  
St. Mary's Road, Buncrana  
(074) 936 1941

Bundoran Community Library,  
Civic Offices, Station Road, Bundoran  
(071) 982 9655

Carndonagh Community Library,  
Public Services Centre, Carndonagh  
(074) 937 3701

Donegal Town Branch Library,  
VEC Offices,  
Mountcharles Road, Donegal  
(074) 972 5329

Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair,  
Aislann Ghaoth Dobhair,  
Páirc Ghnó, Na Doirí Beaga / Derrybeg,  
Gaoth Dobhair / Gweedore  
(074) 956 0862

Lifford Community Library,  
Old Courthouse, The Diamond,  
Lifford  
(074) 917 2726

Milford Community Library,  
Public Services Centre, Milford  
(074) 915 3927

Moville Branch Library,  
The Square, Moville  
(074) 938 5110

Raphoe Branch Library,  
The Diamond, Raphoe  
(074) 914 4115

Rosses Community Library,  
Ionad Teampaill Chróine,  
Chapel Road,  
An Clochán Liath / Dungloe  
(074) 952 2500



*Glenveagh National Park*

## TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES

[www.donegaldirect.ie](http://www.donegaldirect.ie)  
[www.failteireland.ie](http://www.failteireland.ie)  
[www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)  
[www.visitinishowen.com](http://www.visitinishowen.com)

Ardara Visitor Information Point\*  
Heritage Centre,  
Ardara  
(074) 953 7054

Ballybofey & Stranorlar Visitor  
Information Point\*  
Lower Main Street,  
Ballybofey  
(074) 913 2377

Ballyshannon Visitor  
Information Point\*  
The Bridge,  
Ballyshannon  
(071) 982 2856

Buncrana Visitor Information Point\*  
Railway Road,  
Buncrana  
(074) 936 2600

Bundoran Tourist Office\*  
The Bridge,  
Bundoran  
(071) 984 1350

Burtonport Visitor Information Point\*  
The Cope,  
Ailt an Chorráin / Burtonport

Donegal Discover Ireland Centre\*  
The Quay,  
Donegal Town  
(074) 972 1148

Dungloe Visitor Information Point\*  
Ionad Teampaill Chróine,  
Chapel Road,  
An Clochán Liath / Dungloe  
(074) 952 1297

Falcarragh Visitor Information Point\*  
An tSean Bheairic,  
An Fál Carrach / Falcarragh  
(074) 918 0888 or 918 0655

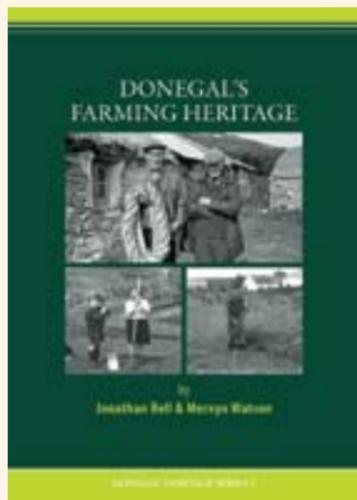
Killybegs Information Centre  
Shore Road,  
Killybegs  
(074) 973 2346

Letterkenny Tourist Office\*  
Neil T. Blaney Road,  
Letterkenny  
(074) 912 1160

Portsalon Visitor Information Point\*  
XL Store,  
Ardglass,  
Portsalon

\* indicates Fáilte Ireland approved offices

## DONEGAL'S FARMING HERITAGE



The County Donegal Heritage Office, Cultural Services, Donegal County Council has produced a free booklet entitled 'Donegal's Farming Heritage' by Dr. Jonathan Bell & Mr. Mervyn Watson. The booklet highlights the hand-held implements (such as spades, loys, rakes, sickles and flails) and horse-operated implements (such as swing ploughs, drill ploughs, harrows, seed drills, reaping machines and threshing machines) used in farming in the county. The mechanisation of agriculture and the conservation of Donegal's farming heritage are also addressed. The booklet is illustrated with historical and modern photographs from around the county and includes a glossary of selected farming heritage objects and practices.

The booklet is the first in the 'Donegal Heritage Series' and is funded by Donegal County Council & The Heritage Council as part of the County Donegal Heritage Plan. Copies of the booklet are available free-of-charge from the County Donegal Heritage Office, Cultural Services, Donegal County Council on (074) 917 2576 or by e-mail at [heritage@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:heritage@donegalcoco.ie) or on the Donegal County Council website at [www.donegalcoco.ie/heritage](http://www.donegalcoco.ie/heritage)

## NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK

National Heritage Week is an integral part of European Heritage Days, a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union. National Heritage Week is coordinated by The Heritage Council and Local Authority Heritage Officers with support from Fáilte Ireland. The principal aims of Heritage Week are to foster awareness of the built, cultural and natural heritage thereby encouraging its conservation and preservation, and to raise interest in our shared European heritage.

County Donegal has become one of the places to be during 'National Heritage Week' thanks to all the events that heritage centres, museums, heritage organisations, community groups and individuals organise (often on a voluntary basis). The County Donegal Heritage Office, Cultural Services, Donegal County Council produces a free County Donegal 'Heritage Week' Event Guide which is available in libraries, museums, heritage centres and tourist offices in early August each year. More information is available at: [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie)





## **COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE OFFICE**

The County Donegal Heritage Office is part of the Cultural Services Division of the Community, Culture & Planning Directorate of Donegal County Council.

Cultural Services include Archives, Arts, Heritage, Library, Museum, Regional Cultural Centre and Public Art services. If you would like to find out more about County Donegal's built, cultural and natural heritage, contact:

Joseph Gallagher  
Heritage Officer,  
County Donegal Heritage Office,  
Donegal County Council,  
Station Island, Lifford, County Donegal.

Telephone: (074) 917 2576  
E-mail: [heritage@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:heritage@donegalcoco.ie)  
Website: [www.donegalcoco.ie/heritage](http://www.donegalcoco.ie/heritage)